



# Yavapai County Attorney

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DATE: April 17, 2019

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## ASU COLLEGE OF LAW HONORS TWO PRESCOTT ATTORNEYS

Two local attorneys have been recognized as outstanding alumni by the Arizona State University Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law. Sheila Polk, Yavapai County Attorney, and Robert "Bob" Schmitt of Murphy, Schmitt, Hathaway Wilson & Becke were honored at a luncheon on April 11, 2019 for their significant achievements in their professional fields and their contributions to their local and national communities.

Ms. Polk is a native Arizonan who received both her bachelor's and law degrees from Arizona State University. After clerking at the Arizona Supreme Court, Ms. Polk served in the Arizona Attorney General's Office for eleven years before joining the Yavapai County Attorney's Office in 1994. In November of 2000, Ms. Polk became the first woman elected to the position of Yavapai County Attorney and is currently serving her fifth four-term. In addition to overseeing a staff of 100 employees, Ms. Polk is at the forefront of change.

She is a founding member of MATFORCE, the Yavapai County Substance Abuse Coalition, awarded the 2013 National Outstanding Coalition. Ms. Polk is the driving stimulus behind the nationally renowned ethics course for law enforcement professionals, What You Do Matters: Lessons from The Holocaust. In 2018, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum recognized Ms. Polk as an "agent of change." Polk is the state chairperson for both the Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys' Advisory Council (APAAC), and the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC). She assists as faculty for a cooperative initiative to strengthen the legal system in Mexico and serves on the Governor's Arizona Human Trafficking Council. In 2012, she was awarded the Michael C. Cudahy Criminal Justice Award from the State Bar of Arizona. "I am very honored to receive this award," stated Polk. "I loved being a law student at ASU and appreciate the many opportunities the law degree has given me over my career."

Robert "Bob" Schmitt has been a trial attorney practicing primarily in the area of personal injury litigation for over 40 years. Mr. Schmitt received a Bachelor of Science Degree in business from ASU in 1968, and his law degree in 1973 from the ASU College of Law. Mr. Schmitt has significant experience in representing both plaintiffs and defendants and has been lead counsel in approximately one hundred civil jury trials. Certified by the State Bar of Arizona as a specialist in the area of Personal Injury and Wrongful Death Litigation, Schmitt has been honored by being selected as a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers, as well as a Member of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA).

Further, he is listed as one of the “Best Lawyers in America” and a “Super Lawyer of the Southwest.”

Mr. Schmitt served as President of the State Bar of Arizona in 1992-93 and was named as the Member of the Year in 1994. In 2011, he was honored with the Walter E. Craig Distinguished Service Award by the Arizona Bar Foundation. Mr. Schmitt has also served on the Arizona State Bar Board of Governors, the Commission for Appellate Court Appointments, the Advisory Committee on Personal Injury and Wrongful Death Certification, and the Arizona Supreme Court Committee on Character and Fitness. Since 2012, he has served on the Board of Trustees of the Arizona Client Protection Fund. Also, since 1987, Mr. Schmitt has taught as a Faculty Member at the annual Arizona College of Trial Advocacy.

“I consider this to be quite an honor,” stated Schmitt. “Although I’m not quite sure that I deserve it, I appreciate this recognition. I have always tried to be a positive influence and I believe I have a reputation of being a problem solver, as opposed to a problem maker. I am extremely proud and grateful for the opportunity of being a member of this honorable profession.”

*(Photographs attached of Robert E. Schmitt and Sheila Polk.)*